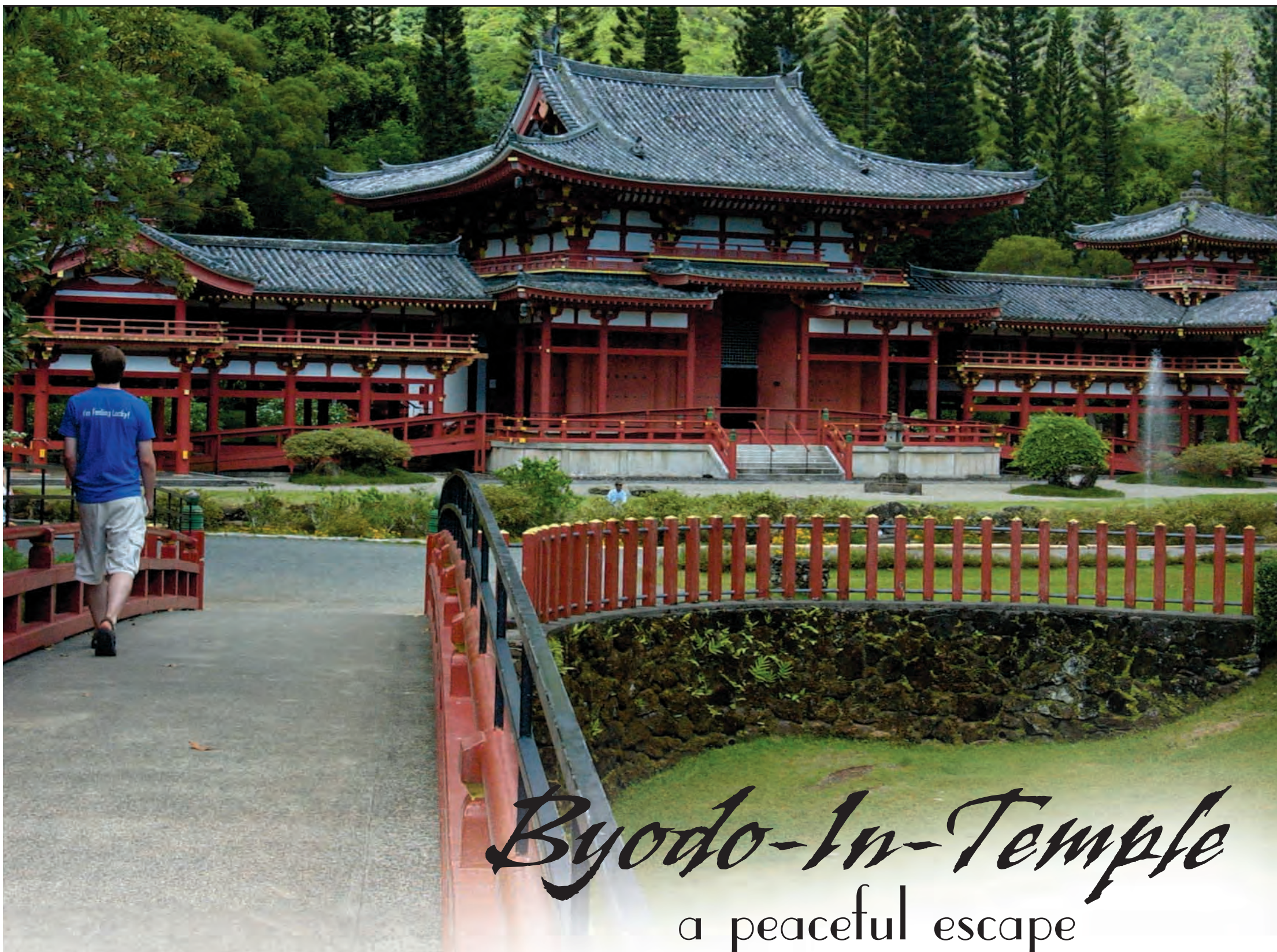


LIFESTYLES

HAWAII MARINE B SECTION

JUNE 2, 2006



Byodo-In-Temple a peaceful escape

**Photos and Story by
Cpl. Sara A. Carter**
Combat Correspondent

Nestled deep in the Valley of the Temples is a serene Buddhist Temple where everyone, no matter what religion, is welcome to come and walk around the peaceful gardens.

The temple is a replica of the 900-year-old Byodo-In Temple, which is located in Uji, Japan. The temple, located off of Kahekili Highway in Kaneohe, was built in 1968 to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the first Japanese immigrants to arrive in Hawaii.

"(This temple) was built

to honor those hard workers," said Hosen Fukuhara, Byodo-In Temple Bishop.

According to Fukuhara, the name of the temple, Byodo-In, means no discrimination – everyone is welcome to visit.

Inside the temple a nine-foot tall statue of Buddha sits on top of a lotus flower. This Lotus Buddha is the largest wooden Buddha carved in more than 900 years and is covered in gold and lacquer. Fragrant incense burns at the base of the statue. Along the walls of the room a variety of religious symbols adorn the walls.

"The symbols are to honor those denominations who gave their moral sup-

port during the building of the temple," Fukuhara said.

Beside the temple, a five-foot, three-ton brass peace bell hangs from a wooden structure. Each visitor to the temple can ring the bell. Its ring signifies calm and peace.

That is not the only message Fukuhara believes the echo of the bell sends to those who hear it. He thinks the echo is a message from Buddha. The message tells all who hear it that like an echo that eventually fades away, nothing is permanent, that things are always changing.

"I hear it all day long," Fukuhara said, "it tells the truth. We may live today, but we don't know about

tomorrow."

Traditional Japanese gardens and a two-acre koi pond where many different types of fish live surround the temple. Ducks, swans from Australia and peacocks are just a few of the different animals found walking around the grounds or swimming in the water.

A small gift shop beside the temple sells bags of fish pellets that can be fed to the fish.

Approximately 1,000 people visit the temple each day, Fukuhara said, with most visitors coming on the weekends and during holidays.

The temple is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and cost \$2 per person to enter.



A nine-foot tall statue of Buddha sits on top of a lotus flower. This Lotus Buddha is the largest wooden Buddha carved in more than 900 years and is covered in gold and lacquer.



Tourists take a moment to look at the fish swimming in the koi pond. Traditional Japanese gardens and a two-acre koi pond where many different types of fish live surround the temple.



A small pond behind the temple is just one of many peaceful locations individuals can enjoy during a visit to the temple.

MCCS Briefs

www.mccshawaii.com

Kahuna's Sports Bar & Grill

254-7660/7661

Tonight's live entertainment

features alternative rock bands Rikken starting at 10 p.m.

Play against other Sports Bars

from around the world on Monday, NTN Trivia night.

Hot Country Wednesday

features Dita Holfield and Red Handed.

Kahuna's Recreation Center and Lava Java

is now serving fresh sausage ham and egg bagel sandwiches from 6:30 to 10:30 a.m. daily.

Staff NCO Club

254-5481

Pub Night at The Pub with No Name

from 6 to 9 p.m., tonight and every Friday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The Officers' Club

254-7650

Grunge Bar

starts tonight at 4:30 p.m.

Mongolian Barbecue

is offered Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m. in the Lanai Ballroom. Present your card for member discount. Reservations are recommended.

Summer Pool hours

are Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and closed on Mondays and Federal Holidays.

All Hands

An FBI Special Agent

will be on hand Monday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Bldg 267, Rm 2 for a presentation on what it takes to become an FBI Agent. Reservations required, next presentation is July 10. For more information call 257-7790.

Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Seminar

will be held Monday through Thursday at the Base Theater from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Open to all hands within one year of separation. For more information call 257-7790.

ACT Exam

Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Bldg 220, is open to active duty members. For more information call 257-2158.

Father's Day

specials begin Thursday through June 18 at the MCX.

Sponsorship Class

will be held Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Bldg 267, Rm 3, for all personnel assigned as sponsors for inbound service members. For more information, call the Relocation Assistance Program at 257-7790.

Earn your journeyman's license

through your MOS and everyday work. Join the USMAP Apprenticeship Orientation in Bldg 221 on Thursday from 12 to 1 p.m. For more information call 257-2158.

BayFest buildup this year

is from now through June 30. Sign up now to volunteer your time at BayFest and receive free event entry, commemorative T-shirts, mugs, caps, meal vouchers, and more. For more information call 245-7631 or 257-7790.

On-base college course registration

starts Wednesday and ends July 7. Registration is for the July 3 to Sept. 12 term. Open to all military service members, family members and civilians. Tuition assistance is available for active duty service members. For more information call 257-2158.

Adult Evening Sailing Classes begin

Monday and continue through to next Friday from 5 p.m. to dusk. These classes will run twice a month through August. For more information call 254-7667.

Parenting Proudly class

, Tuesday, provides the military community with information on improving parenting skills and disciplining techniques. The two-hour class begins at 10 a.m. in Building 216, Room. 71. Reservations required. For more information call 257-8803.

Kahuna's and the Recreation Center

are looking to hire wait staff and recreation attendants and security guards. Call 254-7660/7661 for info.

Hurricane season hits

How to prepare in the event of a strike

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

As the summertime finally arrives, most people are thinking of hitting the beach and barbecuing. But with all of the fun activities that summer beholds, it also brings a possibility of danger. Beginning in June, and continuing throughout November, hurricane season is in full swing, and people need to be prepared in case a natural disaster such as this occurs.

Although the last hurricane to hit Hawaii was hurricane Iniki, back in 1992, it never hurts to be completely prepared.

First off, people aboard base need to be aware of the emergency shelters that are available on base in case a natural disaster occurs.

According to base Emergency Shelter Program representatives, Headquarters Battalion, there is an emergency shelter for every section of base housing and service members and their families are told about these shelters when they get their base indoctrination brief.

Another way to prepare for a natural disaster is having the proper necessities to keep you and your loved ones safe in the harsh conditions.

Flashlights, toiletries, canned foods, and first aid kits are the kinds of items that people should have in their homes at all times, according to shelter representatives.

Additionally, if a hurricane is coming, everyone should stay informed. Hurricanes can usually be tracked from a few days out. That gives everyone plenty of time to get situated and have a definite plan.

Hurricanes aren't like tsunamis – that seem to come out of nowhere. Usually, there is some sort of an announcement or warning that a hurricane is coming.

The base now also has an Information Awareness Campaign that promotes safety and preparedness when it comes to natural disasters.

A map titled 'CIVIL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM' showing the layout of a military base. The map is divided into four color-coded shelter zones. Zone 1 (yellow) is in the upper left, near 'PUU HAWAII LOA' and 'BOWLING ALLEY'. Zone 2 (green) is in the lower left, near 'ENLISTED CLUB' and 'MESS HALL'. Zone 3 (pink) is in the center, near 'GYMNASIUM'. Zone 4 (blue) is on the right, near 'ULUPAU CRATER' and 'KAILUA BAY'. Other features include 'KLIPPER GOLF COURSE' and 'BOWLING ALLEY'. A legend on the right side of the map lists the zones and their corresponding buildings.

ters. Hurricane preparedness information is available at different locations and easily accessible to everyone. The base library will have posters displayed during hurricane season, base news channel 2 has information, and the base Web site (www.mcbh.usmc.mil) is an excellent source.

The Internet also has a great deal of information about hurricanes and other natural disasters and is available to people at the base library as well.

According to shelter representatives, it is key to make certain that people have at least considered which things are important for them to take care of and that they and their family have a plan in place.

Editor's Note: From June to November, Hawaii Marine will run informational articles on hurricanes awareness and preparedness.

RECOMMENDED EMERGENCY SHELTER OCCUPANT ITEMS

Personal Hygiene Items:	Toothbrush/toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc.
Food:	Canned meat, cheese, ready to eat soups, canned or powdered milk, hard boiled eggs, cereals, bread, other food that does not require refrigeration.
Household supplies:	Water for 24 hours (2 gallons per person per day in plastic containers), blankets or sleeping bags, pillows, flashlights, radio, extra batteries, insect repellent, toys for children, paper plates, plastic utensils, can opener, drinking cups, and plastic storage bags.
Clothing:	Change of clothing for several days, extra shoes, disposable diapers.
Medicines:	Heart medication and insulin for diabetes, aspirin, asthma medication, bring a small thermometer or cooler.
<i>Note: No pets are allowed in emergency shelters. Residents who live in evacuated areas should leave pets in homes (second floor) or make arrangements with friends/families. Contact Military Police Department for further information and alternatives at 257-2103</i>	

Learn how to protect yourself and your family from natural disasters

Kelley Harper
LIFELines

Just married ... ahhh. You've picked up the keys to your great new apartment down the street from base. You've scoped out the most romantic restaurant. It seems almost impossible for anything to bump you off of cloud nine. But, in the midst of your newly wedded bliss, some of your rainy day planning can be overlooked, and that may be a problem.

Although news stories tell us that disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and worse are a reality, all too often people fail to prepare for them. After all, who wants to think a disaster will ever happen to them?

But what if, while reading this article, a disaster happened to you? Would you know what to do? Where could you go? Who could you call for help? Before another day goes by, think about making some preparations.

Why Prepare?

Disasters can happen anywhere. You might not be at home but in your vehicle, at work, or even riding a bike in your neighborhood. While most disasters cannot be avoided, being prepared is your best insurance against loss of life and property damage. But you need to take action to prepare now, no matter where you are.

Become an Expert With LIFELines

Not every disaster needs the same response. LIFELine's gives you the tools you need to handle any emergency you might encounter. Covering everything from preparedness to response and recovery, LIFELines walks you through what you need to know about floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters and even teaches you evacuation methods for overseas personnel living on base.

Disaster Guides Lead the Way

Are you ready? The Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) asks you this question in their step-by-step preparedness guide. It explains different kinds of disasters, emergency awareness organizations, and how to locate shelters in your area. The guide also includes resources for families with special considerations, like elderly family members, small children, and family pets.

The American Red Cross (ARC) offers a page full of topics to help prepare for emergencies.

Interactive games designed by the National Weather Service can help educate your children about weather-related disasters like hurricanes, tornadoes, and winter storms.

The Paper Trail You Need

Doing paperwork is never fun. But obtaining and safeguarding important information and documents, such as your birth certificate, passport, marriage certificate, and insurance policies and mortgages is a necessary part of protecting you, your family, and your belongings.

Here's a list of items to get you started:

— Renter's or home insurance documents (and enough insurance to cover all your losses)

— Contact information, including your neighbors and closest out-of-town family member or friend

— Location of your nearest Red Cross chapter and local base military assistance group, such as the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

— A list of nearby hotels or lodging facilities available in an emergency, especially those willing to accept pets

— Disaster kits for home, for each vehicle, and at work

— Evacuation routes, including alternate routes, in case of road closures or obstructed areas.

As you tackle this planning, keep in mind that you are protecting and safeguarding your most important asset — your family — for years to come, no matter where the military takes you.

MOVIE TIME

Prices: Friday and Saturday 7:15 p.m. shows are \$3 for adults; \$1.50 for children. Sunday matinee (2 p.m.) shows are \$2 for adults, \$1 for children. Evening showings on Sunday and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and late shows Friday and Saturday at 9:45 p.m. are \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

For ticket pricing, the Base Theater Box Office defines adults as patrons ages 12 and older, and children as patrons ages 6 to 11. Children ages 5 and younger are free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 years old and younger. Please present your ID card when purchasing your tickets.

Sneak Preview Policy: One hour and 45 minutes prior to the movie, tickets will be issued to first priority patrons waiting in line, then second and third priority patrons.

In an effort to prevent piracy, the following security measures will be enforced on base for sneak preview screenings: bag checks, confiscation of cameras or cell phones with picture taking capability (items will be returned after screening), magnetometer wand, audience scanning with night vision goggles during screening.

The Base Theater and film companies thank you in advance for your cooperation and hope you will enjoy the show. For recorded information, call the Base Theater at 254-7642.

ATL (PG-13)	Today at 7:15 p.m.
Lucky Number Slevin (R)	Today at 9:45 p.m.
Larry the Cable Guy (PG-13)	Saturday at 7:15 p.m.
Take the Lead (PG-13)	Saturday at 9:45 p.m.
The Wild (PG)	Sunday at 2:00 p.m.
Take the Lead (PG-13)	Sunday at 6:30 p.m.
Lucky Number Slevin (R)	Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
The Wild (PG)	Friday at 7:15 p.m.
Larry the Cable Guy (PG-13)	Friday at 9:45 p.m.

Sailor devotes free time to volunteering

“The great thing in this world is not so much where we are, but in what direction we are heading.”

~Oliver Wendell Holmes

Lance Cpl. Ryan Trevino
Combat Correspondent

This quote along with several others is taped up on the side of a wall in the office of Petty Officer 2nd Class Melissa A. Deherrera, supply support assistant, Command Patrol Reconnaissance Wing 2, here.

She said the Oliver Wendell Holmes’ quote is her most favorite and that it inspires her to keep preparing for her future. According to the sea-service veteran, she has done just that.

During her seven years in Navy, she has managed to obtain an Associate’s Degree in Justice Administration and is well on her way to earning her Bachelor’s Degree in the same field.

“Hopefully, one day, I can work for the D.A.’s office,” said the 25-year-old, who also strives to be a director of a nonprofit organization for victims of domestic and sexual violence abuse.

Outside of school and work, she keeps herself busy by devoting time to one of her many passions – volunteering. She is a regular volunteer for the Marine Corps Community Services’ Single Marine & Sailor Program and also contributes time to the Partners of Education Foundation, which sends groups of volunteers to visit elementary schools and to read and play games with underprivileged children.

“I volunteer every chance I get,” said Deherrera, who was recently honored as the 2005 SM&S Volunteer of the Year. She earned the award for racking up more than 90 volunteer hours for the SM&SP. “I get a lot of satisfaction for being giving of myself.”

“She is always eager to help other people out,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Amy L. Smith, leading petty officer, CPRW-2. “She’s very outgoing and always happy. She is the first person to say ‘hi’ to someone in a crowded elevator.”

Smith said the command works with Deherrera to arrange time for her volunteer, because Deherrera is known for making sure her

work is done before requesting time off. In fact, she does her job so well that she was recently named Junior Sailor of the Quarter for CPRW-2.

Deherrera described her upbringing as normal, and said she was a self-proclaimed “tomboy” who spent most of her time playing sports. Today, the Colorado native continues that tradition by playing softball, her favorite sport, for the Women’s Varsity Softball Team.

Deherrera said she has accomplished all of her goals while in the Navy, advancing through the ranks quickly and traveling the world. She has been deployed to Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Japan.

“The Navy has been good to me,” said Deherrera, who added that the Navy has been a solid steppingstone.

All her life, Deherrera said she has been a firm believer in fate. She said, with confidence, that everything in life happens because it is meant to happen. In fact, after high school, Deherrera said she was unsure what her next move was going to be, until she spotted a Navy recruiting postcard in her cousin’s junk mail. She decided right there to take a chance and fill the card out with her information. The recruiter called her three days later.

Deherrera said neither she nor her parents knew what to expect.

“My parents were worried when I first told them that I joined,” she said, adding that are now very understanding of the work she does and continue to support her to the fullest.

Without a doubt, said Deherrera, my biggest hero is my mom because of the strength she exhibited while raising two kids as a single mom.

“She has always been there for us – without judgment,” said the Sailor.

Deherrera said that one day she plans to start a family of her own – when the time is right. She added that she isn’t going to rush things because, as she says, whatever is meant to happen will happen.



Lance Cpl. Ryan Trevino

Petty Officer 2nd Class Mellissa A. Deherrera, supply support assistant, Command and Patrol Reconnaissance Wing 2, holds up her award for Junior Sailor of the Quarter while standing behind her wall of quotes that provide her with daily inspiration. Deherrera was also awarded the 2005 Single Marine & Sailor Program's Volunteer of the Year.

Weather Observer finds her way through the corps

Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree
Combat Correspondent

A blonde haired, blue-eyed woman sits on a bench. By the intense look on her face, one could tell she was deep in thought.

In the background, P3 Orion patrol planes land on the airstrip on Marine Corps Air Facility, here. In her mind, seems like only yesterday that she graduated boot camp eight days before she graduated high school.

“I thought it was kind of neat to be the only one at my high school graduation to wear dress blues,” said Lance Cpl. Jessica D. Wahlin, weather observer, Marine Corps Air Facility. “I got back from boot camp and everything just seemed different. The people changed and seemed they didn’t notice I was gone.”

When she returned from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, she returned with her head up high and in a brand new Marine Corps uniform.

“I got back and people were like, ‘where have you been? What have you been up to?’ I thought to myself, ‘Hello? Do you not notice?’ But I still had a lot of pride in myself and was just happy with myself,” said the 19-year-old.

The young Manatee High School graduate enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2005, upon completing her necessary credits.

“Florida has this high school where you can earn your credits online,” said the Bradenton, Fla. native. “So the first half of my senior year, I spent getting my credits online and I finished high school by December.”

Wahlin said she wanted to join the Marine Corps in order to gain a sense of self-pride and responsibility. She decided upon the Marine Corps because she heard the Marines were the best and that’s what she wanted – to be the best.

She tried talking with other recruiters, but felt more comfortable with the Marines who welcomed her in and gave her a feeling of a sense of friendship, Wahlin said.

Though it was her choice to



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Lance Cpl. Jessica D. Wahlin, weather observer, Marine Corps Air Facility, prepares to release a weather balloon after gaining clearance from the control tower at Marine Corps Air Facility, here, May 25. Wahlin was able to complete recruit training before graduating high school in 2005. She attended her high school graduation while she was on leave after graduating from basic training.

join, Wahlin said her mother was nervous at first, but embraced the fact that her daughter was going to be a Marine and started showing her off to her friends, bragging that her daughter was going to be one of the best.

One factor that made on Wahlin’s decision in joining

the service easier was the fact that her husband, who graduated high school a year before her, had already enlisted into the Army as a public affairs specialist.

“I personally don’t have anything against the Army,” she said, “but I do enjoy having the title of Marine.”

As a child, Wahlin said she dreamed of traveling into space. When it came time for her to sit down and choose a military occupational specialty, one choice came to mind.

“I wanted to be an air traffic controlman,” she said. “But everybody else wanted it too, so this was the closest thing and it

was in the same field.”

Though she said she is enjoying her time in the Marine Corps, she plans on getting out after her four years is up.

She is currently taking classes at Chaminade University on base to complete her Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood

Development. After getting out of the Marine Corps, she plans on becoming a kindergarten teacher – a job she said the Marine Corps has help her to choose.

“I like kids and figured why not make a career out of it,” she said. “They are just fun and innocent.”

Pegasus' 40-year legacy continues in Iraq



Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

Marines from various units and squadrons sit idly during transport from Al Taqaddum, Iraq, to Al Fallujah, Iraq, May 18, on a CH-53D Sea Stallion with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463. Initially a World War II bomber squadron, HMH-463, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, flew the first CH-53s in Vietnam with the main mission of providing assault support transport, which they still do today.

DoD Photo National Archive

Marine grunts exit their transportation, a CH-53A Sea Stallion with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, to begin a search and destroy operation 17 miles southeast of Phu Bai, Vietnam, Nov. 18, 1967. Initially a World War II bomber squadron, HMH-463, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, flew the first CH-53s in Vietnam with the main mission of providing assault support transport, which they still do today.



DoD Photo National Archive

A Marine from 2nd Platoon 'Vultures,' of Bravo Company 'Bushmasters,' bares the Stars and Stripes while others from his unit board a CH-53A Sea Stallion with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 in Vietnam in 1967. Initially a World War II bomber squadron, HMH-463, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, flew the first CH-53s in Vietnam with the main mission of providing assault support transport, which they still do today.

Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

AL ASAD, Iraq – In December 1966, the first personnel with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 touched down in Da Nang, Vietnam, without any aircraft. It wasn't until Jan. 8, 1967, that the ship carrying four CH-53A Sea Stallions arrived for the Marines.

Nearly 40 years later, Pegasus Marines are serving their country in another war under the same aircraft group, Marine Aircraft Group 16, with the same aircraft that were presented to them during the Vietnam War two

years after their initial landing – the CH-53D Sea Stallion.

The squadron was originally a fixed-wing bombing squadron during World War II that has served on each coast of the United States, including Hawaii. Having served in more than nine MAGs and all three Marine Aircraft Wings, the squadron has been deactivated three times before it was finally activated again as HMH-463.

"HMH-463 was the first CH-53 helicopter squadron in the Marine Corps," said Lt. Col. Randel W. Parker, commanding officer, HMH-463, MAG-16 (Reinforced), 3rd

MAW. "We have always been an assault support platform since this helicopter was introduced in 1966."

According to retired Marine Col. Charles A. Block, the commanding officer of HMH-463 in 1970, the ground commanders loved to use Pegasus because of the number of Marines the, at the time, new helicopters could carry in one trip.

"We would normally carry around 50 combat Marines," said the 72-year-old veteran who resides in Enterprise, Ala. "With four helicopters, we would put an infantry company on the ground at one time, ready to fight."

Block recalled one night when the squadron helped conduct the largest night tactical assault ever accomplished by Marine Corps aviation.

"We had 15 CH-53s leading about 20 CH-46s with simultaneous landings under flares from a C-47 flare ship," he said. "The troops not on the assault had climbed on top of the hardback parking revetments to watch us return. You have to realize that these same observers were going to be on the flight line at (5 a.m.) and it was about (2 a.m.) when we returned."

"Nobody asked or even suggested that they welcome us back, but they did it on their own," Block added. "I would describe the Marines in this squadron as being the most dedicated, hard-working bunch of folks I have ever seen in my 28 years in the Marine Corps. They broke every record for cargo and troop hauling that had ever been set up to that date."

However, the Pegasus Marines continue to grow and improve on the inheritance set upon them.

"The squadron improves with every new Marine we get," said Parker, a 44-year-old native of Littleton, Colo. "You try to build onto the legacy of the Marines who came before you and improve on that. Hopefully, in a year when people rotate out of here and we get new people in, they'll continue to build upon that."

"The Marines here are highly motivated and dedicated," the graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University continued. "They understand their mission and do it the best that I've ever seen. It is truly amazing. It is a testament to themselves and their families. Basically, it just shows you what kind of great young Americans we have."

Although the squadron has a fruitful legacy to live up to, it has already begun to set its own records, as it is the first full Delta helicopter squadron to deploy to Iraq in nearly 15 years.

"It's quite an honor to be the first, but our main goal in being the first is to be able to maintain a strong presence and represent the CH-53D

community," said Parker. "As soon as we're done with our deployment, (HMH-363) will replace us, which is another CH-53D squadron, and then they'll be replaced by (HMH-362). We kick this off for the community, but it is also our job to sustain operations."

According to Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, sergeant major, HMH-463, the squadron's guest speaker before departing their home station at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, was a retired sergeant major who used to be a crew chief for the squadron during the Vietnam era.

"He gave his lessons that he had learned during that time frame to the Marines who were literally about to leave in three weeks after the ceremony," said Villalino, a 37-year-old native of Long Beach, Calif. "I think it had significance, as the Marines understand that this plat-

form we have and use has done great things before in Vietnam and Desert Storm."

Although the Vietnam era has left its lessons and records with HMH-463, the Pegasus Marines continue to strive for excellence.

"You have a group of Marines who are excited and committed to support operations out here in (Operation Iraqi Freedom)," said Parker. "They have great people, whether it's immediate family, moms and dads or brothers and sisters, back home to support them. They understand that what we are doing is really great for the American people."

"Some people say, 'How can an old aircraft like this continue to do what it's doing?'" he concluded. "My simple response to that is that it says Marines on the side of it, and Marines do great things."



Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

The letters YH adorned on the tail of the CH-53D Sea Stallions identify each aircraft as being designated to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463.

Veteran proudly celebrates Memorial Day



Eleanor Warner, a retired Marine and President of the Marine Corps Women Marines Association, looks on during the 2006 Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony May 29.

Cpl. Sara A. Carter
Combat Correspondent

A woman wearing a carefully pressed white uniform slowly walks to an empty chair. As she sits down she looks at the veterans sitting around her. Her white hair is neatly curled and her lips are painted bright pink. Around her neck she wears a gold eagle, globe and anchor. She smiles as she looks around at her fellow veterans – the sparkle in her soft brown eyes shows how proud she is to be there.

After looking around for a few of moments, she spots someone she recognizes. She uses the chair in front of her for leverage as she slowly stands to her feet. She walks to a familiar person who is sitting across the walkway and sits. They talk while they wait for the 2006 Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery to begin May 29.

Her name is Eleanor Warner. She, like Rubie, knows a lot of people at this

event. She asked one veteran how his leg is doing. He had a bad infection in it a couple of weeks ago. She then asked about his father. They chat for a little while, and as he leaves, she looks around for someone else to talk to.

There are not many women veterans in the crowd, and Warner is one of the few in uniform. The Providence, R.I. native joined the Corps in February 1943 during World War II.

Both her mother and father served in the Navy during World War I. They were surprised when Warner came home and said she was joining the Marine Corps, but they were proud, she said.

"The motto back then was 'free a Marine to fight,' so I joined," the brown-eyed veteran said. "We joined so the men could fight."

Warner, who served two years in the Corps, met her husband when he returned home from Gradual Canal. Four children and 20 years of service later, Warner's husband, who died six years ago,

retired from the Marine Corps.

After her husband retired from the Corps, he worked for the CIA while Richard Nixon was president, Warner said. They moved to Norfolk, Va., but Warner wanted to return to Hawaii where they had been stationed in previous years.

"My husband told me that if I wanted to move back out here, I needed to make the plans," the President of the Marine Corps Women Marines Association said. "I did and we moved out here."

The 83-year-old was married in August 1944 at the age of 22. Now that her husband is deceased, Warner spends her spare time as a volunteer tour guide at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel and volunteers with the Salvation Army Auxiliary.

The fragile woman reached in her purse, something that she said all the young kids love because it has a picture of a bulldog on the front of it, and pulled out a wallet. She held her wallet in one hand

while she dug for something else. On the center of her wallet is a Marine Corps sticker. She found what she was looking for – a plastic sleeve containing pictures.

"Even though it has been six years since my husband died, I couldn't bring myself to go through his stuff until recently," she said sadly.

She pulled out two pictures. The first was of a young brunet woman who was sitting on a beach holding a child in her lap. To her left were an older woman and man. Warner explained that the picture is of her and her parents and her oldest child.

She put the second picture on top of the first and took a second to examine it.

"I just found this the other day," she said as she squinted to find her husband in the picture. The picture was of a group of about 20 Marines – all posing for the picture. She finally found her husband in the second row. He had a huge smile on his face.

She said, smiling, "This was taken before I met him."



Cpl. Lynn Murillo

Country music superstar Toby Keith performed at the Camp Fallujah chapel May 29. The show was a part of Keith's five-day USO tour of forward operating bases in Iraq

Country music outlaw visits Camp Fallujah

Cpl. Lynn Murillo
1 Marine Expeditionary Force

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — Country music superstar Toby Keith performed a Memorial Day concert here

for nearly 4,000 service members in the Fallujah Chapel and via the internal computer-based broadcast system May 29.

The fans cheers erupted into a roar as the patriotic

songwriter and performer stepped onto the small stage at the chapel. Keith opened the hour-long acoustic show with his crowd pleasing hit "I Love This Bar," bringing the Marines, sailors, soldiers and

airmen a little piece of America. He played new songs, as well as a few classics like "Should've Been A Cowboy" and "Beer For My Horses."

This is Keith's second visit here; the first was in 2004 just after Marines took over the camp. He played two other venues on Memorial Day as part of the USO's Toby Keith Tour.

"You can't appreciate what (service members) do until you see it," said Keith. "Everybody is so good at what they do and when you come here, you can really understand why America is the number one fighting force in the world."

The country singer expressed a special satisfaction in lifting troop morale and honoring his father, a Vietnam veteran.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Michael W. Hagee was in the front row for the concert and sang along as Keith sang "Courtesy of the Red, White

and Blue" from his 2003 album "Unleashed."

Hagee said he enjoyed the concert and was happy to welcome the superstar known as the bad boy of country music to the headquarters for Marines operating in Al Anbar province.

Longtime fans might consider the performance a way to take their minds of the serious business of war fighting.

"It was an honor to meet him," said Sgt. Cassie L. Lucero, 28, from Phoenix, an administrative clerk with I Marine Expeditionary Force's command element.

"I am a huge fan of anyone that supports us," Lucero said. "The morale boost he just gave everyone here makes me proud to be out here serving my country."

Lance Cpl. Joseph W. Hanson, of Greybull, Wyo., also a self-proclaimed "big fan," was elated with Keith's performance.

"I think it is awesome that he would come out to the

middle of Iraq to give us a concert," said Hanson, a weather observer with I MEF. "If he is spending his Memorial Day out here with us, it means a lot," adding, Keith could be anywhere this weekend.

Maj. Gen. Richard C. Zilmer, commanding general of Multi-National Forces West, presented Keith with a Ka-bar fighting knife and a personalized guitar strap made from a desert-digital camouflage pattern as a token of gratitude for his time and effort. Zilmer jokingly told Keith that he hopes to see the guitar strap in one of Keith's upcoming music videos. The crowd laughed as Keith smiled, shaking Zilmer's hand and agreeing to his request.

Keith and his crew are on a five-day tour of Iraq, entertaining troops at several forward operating bases in the next few days, demonstrating their continuing pride and support for service members here.



Cpl. Lynn Murillo

Toby Keith fan, Sgt. Jarred E. Fienhold, 27, from Bakersfield, Calif., a utilities manager with Combat Logistics Battalion 5 sings along during Keith's performance here May 29. Camp Fallujah's chapel was just one stop on Keith's five day tour of forward operating bases in Iraq.

ON THE MENU

AT ANDERSON HALL

Today

Lunch
Oven Roast Beef
Baked Tuna and Noodles
Steamed Rice
French Fried Cauliflower
Vegetable Combo
Brown Gravy
Chilled Horseradish
Asst'd Fruit Pie
Chocolate Chip Cookies

Specialty Bar: Pasta

Dinner

Sauerbraten
Knockwurst w/sauerkraut
Cottage Fried Potatoes
Boiled Egg Noodles
Green Beans w/mushrooms
Creole Summer Squash
Brown Gravy
Asst'd Fruit Pie
Chocolate Chip Cookies

Saturday

Dinner
Grilled Steak
Pork Chops Mexicana
Mashed Potatoes
Spanish Rice
Mexican Corn
Peas and Mushrooms
Brown Gravy
Fruit Nut Bars
Asst'd Fruit Pies

Sunday

Dinner

Beef Pot Pie
Baked Ham
Baked Macaroni and Cheese
Club Spinach
Cauliflower au Gratin
Cream Gravy
Bread Pudding with
Lemon Sauce
Peanut Butter Cookies
Asst'd Fruit Pie

Monday

Lunch

Teriyaki Chicken
Salisbury Steak
Mashed Potatoes
Steamed Rice
Simmered Carrots
Simmered Lima Beans
Brown Gravy
Apple Crisp
Asst'd Fruit Pie

Specialty Bar: Deli

Dinner

Baked Meat Loaf
Oven Roast Beef
Pork Fried Rice
Parsley Buttered Potatoes
Green Beans w/Mushrooms
Simmered Corn
Brown Gravy
Apple Crisp
Asst'd Fruit Pie

Tuesday

Lunch

Barbequed Spareribs

Veal Parmesan
Oven Brownd Potatoes
Buttered Egg Noodles
Simmered Asparagus
Steamed Cauliflower
Brown Gravy
Devil's Food Cake w/
Mocha Buttercream frosting
Asst'd Fruit Pie

Specialty Bar: Taco

Dinner

Swiss Steak w/Brown Gravy
Baked Fish Fillets
Lyonnaise Potatoes
Steamed Rice
Southern Style Green Beans
Vegetable Combo
Brown Gravy
Devil's Food Cake w/
Mocha Buttercream frosting
Asst'd Fruit Pie

Wednesday

Lunch

Baked Ham
Chili Macaroni
Candied Sweet Potatoes
Grilled Cheese Sandwich
French Fried Okra
Cauliflower Au Gratin
Pineapple Sauce
Bread Pudding w/Lemon
Sauce
Peanut Butter Cookies
Asst'd Fruit Pie

Specialty Bar: Hot Dog

Dinner

Baked Stuffed Pork Chops
Turkey Pot Pie
Calico Corn
Simmered Peas and Carrots
Steamed Rice
Mashed Potatoes
Brown Gravy
Sweet Potato Pie
Bread Pudding w/lemon
sauce
Peanut Butter Cookies
Asst'd Fruit Pie

Thursday

Lunch

Cantonese Spareribs
Baked Tuna & Noodles
Shrimp Fried Rice
Corn on the Cob
Simmered Spinach
Corn Bread Dressing
Brown Gravy
Pineapple Upside Down Cake
Asst'd Fruit Pie

Specialty Bar: Taco

Dinner

Swedish Meatballs
Caribbean Chicken
Steamed Rice
O'brien Potatoes
Simmered Brussels Sprouts
Simmered Summer Squash
Chicken Gravy
Pineapple Upside Down Cake
Asst'd Fruit Pie

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